

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete list of claims. The claims below replace all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please amend claims 19, 21, 22 and 23 Please withdraw and cancel claims 25 and 44 – 49 which were not provisionally elected for prosecution in response to the examiner's restriction requirement mailed 18 May 2007.

1. – 2. Cancelled
3. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of fuel between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.
4. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of water between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.
5. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of personnel between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.
6. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of electrical power between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.
7. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating transmission of electronic communication signals between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.
8. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a foil-assisted hull.
9. – 18. Cancelled
19. (Currently Amended) A water vessel comprising:

a mission module ~~that configured to contains~~ specialized equipment, ~~supplies and resources~~ for performing a specific mission other than providing crew and passengers safe accommodations in the event that the vessel sinks, and configured to be coupled with one or more systems of the vessel to allow access to the equipment, ~~supplies and resources,~~ wherein while the mission module is coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the module's equipment, ~~supplies and resources enables~~ the vessel to perform the specific mission, and while the mission module is not coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the vessel is not enabled to perform the specific mission; and

a bay capable of receiving the mission module and including:

an interface capable of releasably coupling the equipment, ~~supplies and resources~~ of the mission module with one or more of the vessel's systems, and

a mounting structure capable of releasably holding the mission module in the bay while the mission module is coupled with the bay's interface.

20. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured for a single mission.
21. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module contains equipment, ~~supplies and resources~~ for performing one of the following missions: a mine hunting mission, an anti-submarine mission, a special-operation mission, and an intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance mission.
22. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module is ~~configured to contains~~ all the specialized equipment, ~~supplies and resources~~ for performing a specific mission.
23. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module includes at least one of the following, a weapons turret and an antenna, each

mounted to the module's structure and exposed for use while the module is releasably held in the vessel's bay.

24. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a ramp capable of supporting a mission module as the module is moved into the bay.

25. – 27. Cancelled

28. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a sailing ship.

29. – 30. Cancelled

31. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a multihull.

32. – 49. Cancelled